

February 1, 2010

Chief's Corner



Miami Beach is as well known for its dazzling night life as it is for its Art Deco buildings and beautiful beaches. The Entertainment District of hip bars and nightclubs is a great lure to both local and tourists; many of whom drive to these establishments only to later drive home after consuming too much alcohol. Unfortunately this sometimes results in DUI arrests; or DUI related accidents, in which all too often a death is involved. This is troubling; because this senseless loss of life can be prevented. This is why I recently endorsed AAA and Budweiser's Tow to Go Program, which is designed to protect intoxicated drivers and the public by offering a free ride home and vehicle tow to whomever calls their center during Super Bowl weekend.

This is one more example of my commitment to reduce crime in our city through the implementation of innovative crime prevention measures. It is important that I note this program does not absolve officers from identifying, stopping and arresting drunk drivers. My officers will remain diligent in this regard for our ultimate goal is to enforce the law, prevent accidents, and preserve life.

Carlos E. Noriega,
Chief of Police

The Beat



Officer and Civilian of the Year Announced

On January 16, 2009 at the annual Fraternal Order of Police Banquet, Chief Carlos Noriega and Captain Mark Causey were proud to announce Officer Jorge Lemus as the Officer of the Year. Training Unit Office Manager Lori Freedline was awarded Civilian of the year. Both were selected by the Awards Board Committee, which is comprised of civilian and sworn department personnel.

Officer Lemus was nominated by his supervisors Sergeant Paul Ozeata and Sergeant Shannon Madison. They described Officer Lemus as one of Miami Beach Police Department's finest officers. Throughout 2009 he showcased his tenacity for his profession and apprehension of dangerous criminals in our city. The following are some of his accomplishments:

January 2009

Division Top Performer / Felony Arrests

Awarded Medal of Valor

Nominated for Outstanding Service Award

Nominated for Officer of the Month

February 2009

Division Top Performer / Felony Arrests

May 2009

Division Top Performer / Felony Arrests

Awarded Officer of the Month

Nominated for Outstanding Service Award

June 2009

Division Top Performer / Felony Arrests

July 2009

Nominated for Officer of the Month

Nominated for Outstanding Service Award

August 2009

Nominated for Florida Retail Federation's (FRF) Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

Awarded FRF's Outstanding Nominee & Certificate of Commendation

September 2009

Letter of Commendation

November 2009

Division Top Performer / Traffic Arrests.

Officer Lemus is described by his peers as having the greatest of zeal, energy, and humility.

Ms. Freedline was nominated by her Unit Lieutenant Octavio Rabelo. Aside from her many responsibilities in the unit, Ms. Freedline was cited and recognized for her part in maintaining the accreditation files for the Training Unit, which aided in achieving accreditation flagship status. Ms. Freedline is described as someone who constantly exceeds expectations. The following

are some of her accomplishments:

Awarded Certificate of Recognition from Mayor M Bower and Commissioner J. Wolfson

Awarded Certificate of Appreciation from Southeast Florida Urban Security Initiative

Awarded Civilian of the Month July 2009

Awarded Unit Citation for CALEA Efforts

Nominated for a LEO Award

Aside from her many attributes Ms. Freedline is a main coordinator for the Citizens Police Academy.

On her own time Ms. Freedline volunteers numerous hours to departmental and city initiatives especially when children and the underprivileged are concerned. She has been a PAL Board member for many years, advisor to the PAL's Director Council for 11 years and has been employed by the City for 17 years.

Congrats to both for their achievements.

Mark Your Calendars

Super Bowl	02/07/10
Intl Boat Show	02/11/10
Food & Wine	02/25/10
Film Festival	03/05/10

Calling 911 From Your Cell Phones

The number of 911 calls placed from cell phones has radically increased. While cell phones can be an important public safety tool, they can also create a unique challenge for public safety and emergency response personnel. The mobility of cell phones results in a disassociation with any one location or address. Since the caller can be anywhere, the call is routed via the cell phone tower to the nearest 911 Center. In the City of Miami Beach your 911 Center, known as the Public Safety Communications Unit (PSCU) is housed within the Police Department. The 911 system's Automatic Location Identifier (ALI) will provide the general

X/Y geographic coordinates for the phone and / or tower location. This information is not usually specific enough for emergency response personnel to locate the caller quickly. If the caller is unable to give their location, the 911 call center will try to obtain the cell phone's information from the cell phone carrier. Upon receiving the owner's information, an officer will be sent to check the address listed on the account. Not all cell phone carriers provide this information right away and who's to say the caller is at the location provided. If the account address is in another jurisdiction, the original 911 center will need to involve other agencies. Other

Agencies may also need to be contacted if the caller / cell phone is mobile and travels across jurisdictional boundaries during these types of situations. As indicated when dialing 911, the call is routed to the nearest 911 Center. If the call is dropped (caller hangs up before someone can answer, or the cell phone disconnects) a call taker will call back to verify if emergency assistance is needed. If assistance is needed, then a call will be routed to the proper dispatcher for Police, Fire-Rescue, or both. If there is no answer on call back, every attempt will be made to locate the phone subscriber. If the 911 call taker makes phone contact

with the caller and believes the caller is in need of help but unable to say so, police will be sent (if the location is known) to personally verify if there is a need for assistance.

When calling 911 from a cell phone tell the call taker the location and nature of the emergency right away. Give the call taker your cell phone number so as they can call you back in case the call is disconnected. Most importantly, remember that 911 operators follow established protocols to obtain information needed for responding personnel to provide the best possible service to you. Questions will be asked while personnel are already on the way to assist you.

MIAMI BEACH

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**We are on the
web!
MiamiBeachFL.gov**

MBPD says Goodbye to a Loyal Partner & Friend

In January 2010, K9 Dak partner to Officer Dmitri Gotsis had to be put to sleep due to a short, but vigilant fight against an incurable bone cancer.

K9 Dak will be remembered for his courageous outstanding service to the Department and the citizens of Miami Beach.

The following is a just one example of his hard work and bravery which occurred on January 13, 2009 in an incident for which he was awarded the Medal of Valor.

A victim of domestic violence was changing the locks on her apartment when her ex-boyfriend re-

turned. He became enraged when he learned she had filed a police report. He stabbed her repeatedly with a knife. The victim, who was stabbed 14 times required emergency life-saving surgery. The subject fled the scene, officers established an extensive perimeter.

Officer D. Gotsis and his K9 Partner Dak were searching a nearby vacant apartment. K9 Dak alerted to the apartment. As Officer Gotsis was preparing to enter the apartment, the bloody subject appeared and began kicking K-9 Dak. The subject went to the ground kicking, choking and punching Dak repeatedly. K9 Dak

kept the subject under control, until he could be taken into custody. The subject was charged with Attempted Murder

This was just one example of the loyalty and exceptional bravery of Dak. His absence will be felt by all who knew and worked with him.

